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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/002,776	11/02/2001	Ricki D. Williams	2070.005600/P6772	5374
7590	10/04/2004		EXAMINER	
B. Noel Kivlin Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. P.O. Box 398 Austin, TX 78767-0398			DEBERADINIS, ROBERT L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2836	
DATE MAILED: 10/04/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/002,776	WILLIAMS, RICKI D. <i>RW</i>	
	Examiner Robert DeBerardinis	Art Unit 2836	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 May 2003.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 02 November 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some *
 - c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

A decision to revive this application was granted on 5/2/03.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4, 7-10, 13-16, 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by ROCKOW 6,153,947.

Regarding claims 1, 7, 13, 19-21.

ROCKOW discloses a system comprising:

means for detecting a device being inserted into the system (hot swap controller 16);

means for blocking delivery of an electrical signal to the inserted device for a first pre-selected duration of time (power control transistor 17).

Regarding claims 2, 3, 8, 9, 14, 15.

ROCKOW discloses the system of 1, wherein the means for blocking further comprises means for preventing delivery of electrical power to the insertion device for a first pre-selected duration of time (column 4, lines 25, 26).

Regarding claims 4, 10, 16.

ROCKOW discloses the system of claim 2, wherein the means for blocking further comprises means for progressively increasing the level of current delivered to the inserted device after the first pre-selected duration of time by controlling the inrush current to a programmable value by controlling the gate voltage of an external N-channel pass transistor (column 3, lines 45-55).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 5, 6, 11, 12, 17, 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over ROCKOW 6,153,947 in view of DORSEY 6,008,550.

Regarding claims 5, 6, 11, 12, 17, 18.

ROCKOW discloses the system of claim 1.

ROCKOW does not disclose wherein the means for blocking further comprises means for blocking a first electrical signal from being delivered to a first portion of the inserted device for a first pre-selected duration of time, and for blocking a second electrical signal from being delivered to a second portion of the inserted device for a second pre-selected duration of time, wherein the first pre-selected duration of time is greater than the second pre-selected duration of time.

Art Unit: 2836

DORSEY means for blocking a first electrical signal from being delivered to a first portion of the inserted device for a first pre-selected duration of time, and for blocking a second electrical signal from being delivered to a second portion of the inserted device (column 12, lines 66, 67, column 13, lines 1-10).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of this invention to pre-select duration of time to unblock a signal when a card is inserted. The motivation would be to distribute power to different parts of the inserted card at different times to reduce current inrush surges to high power circuits.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Robert L. DeBerardinis whose number is (571) 272-2049. The Examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Brian Sircus, can be reached on (571) 272-2058. The Fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9306.

RLD

SEPTEMBER 1, 2004



ROBERT L. DEBERARDINIS
PRIMARY EXAMINER